

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /091 W
-----041116 030328Z /75

P R 021256Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5195
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 17468

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UR, US, MASS, SO
SUBJECT: DRAFT EMBASSY REBUTTAL OF SOVIET CHARGES RE: TRANSFER
OF U.S. ARMS TO SOMALIA

REF: MOSCOW 17231

1. REFTEL (PARA 4) QUOTES TASS DIRECTOR ZAMYATIN'S OUT-
RAGEOUS TV STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT USG HAS ANNOUNCED ITS
READINESS TO ALLOW THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFER OF U.S. ARMS TO
SOMALIA. IN REBUTTAL EMBASSY PLANS TO SEND FOLLOWING LETTER
FROM COUNSELOR FOR PRESS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS TO ZAMYATIN:

2. BEGIN DRAFT LETTER: DEAR MR. ZAMYATIN:

I AM WRITING TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO A REMARK YOU MADE
DURING THE NOVEMBER 26 TELECAST OF THE "STUDIO NINE"
PROGRAM. DURING A DISCUSSION OF THE SITUATION IN THE
HORN OF AFRICA, YOU SAID THE FOLLOWING: "THE UNITED
STATES MADE A STATEMENT THROUGH THE STATE DEPARTMENT
THAT IT IS READY TO ALLOW THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH
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PURCHASE ARMS IN THE UNITED STATES TO SUPPLY THOSE
ARMS TO SOMALIA."

CONTRARY TO YOUR ASSERTION, THE UNITED STATES GOVERN-
MENT HAS MADE NO SUCH STATEMENT AND IN FACT HAS CLEARLY
AND CONSISTENTLY MADE IT KNOWN THAT, WHILE THE
CONFLICT IN THE OGADEN CONTINUES, ANY TRANSFER OF

ARMS OF AMERICAN ORIGIN TO SOMALIA BY THIRD PARTIES
WOULD BE AGAINST U.S. POLICY. THAT POLICY WAS
REITERATED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN IN HIS
DAILY NEWS BRIEFING ON NOVEMBER 14.

IT IS DISTURBING THAT A PROMINENT SOVIET OFFICIAL
SO COMPLETELY MISREPRESENTED AMERICAN POLICY IN A
TELEVISION BROADCAST NO DOUBT VIEWED BY MISSIONS
OF SOVIET CITIZENS, WHO THUS GAINED A MISTAKEN
IMPRESSION OF MY COUNTRY'S POSITION IN AN AREA OF
PARTICULAR SENSITIVITY. MOREOVER, IT IS DOUBLY
DISTURBING THAT SUCH A MISREPRESENTATION SHOULD
EMANATE FROM THE HEAD OF THE SOVIET UNION'S OFFICIAL
NEWS AGENCY, WHICH SHOULD BE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED
WITH ACCURACY AND FAIRNESS.

I THINK IT IS NOT TOO MUCH TO ASK THAT TASS CORRECT
THE UNFORTUNATE MISIMPRESSION LEFT BY YOUR
TELEVISED REMARKS.

SINCERELY, RAYMOND E. BENSON, COUNSELOR FOR PRESS AND
CULTURAL AFFAIRS. END DRAFT LETTER.

3. EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE LATER OR
MORE PRECISE RESTATEMENT OF U.S. POLICY THAN THAT
IN DEPARTMENT'S NOV. 14 DAILY BRIEFING. SHOULD ONE
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EXIST, PLEASE INFORM US. UNLESS DEPT. HAS OBJECTIONS,
WE PLAN MAIL OUR LETTER DEC. 5.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW17468
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770467-0655, D770448-0841
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197712100/aaaadgye.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 39ed20fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: DRAFT EMBASSY REBUTTAL OF SOVIET CHARGES RE: TRANSFER OF U.S. ARMS TO SOMALIA
TAGS: MASS, PCAT, UR, US, SO
To: STATE
Type: TE
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